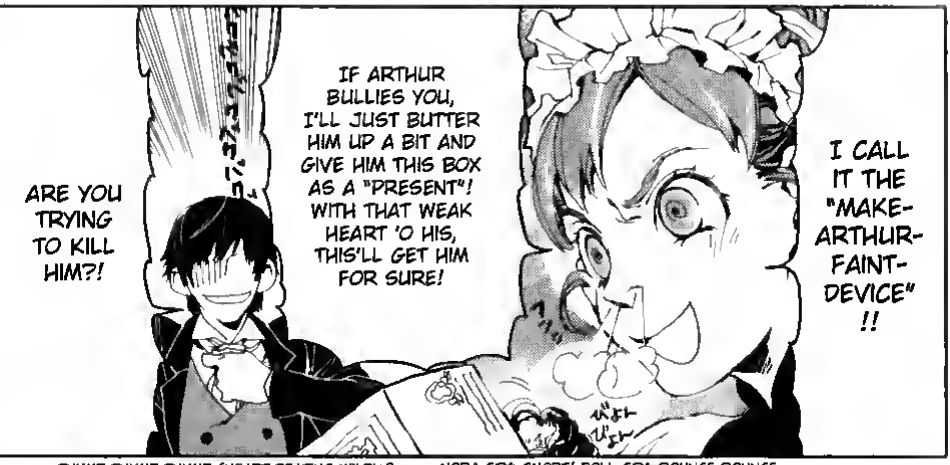
Chapter 5

第5話
Post nubila Phoebus.

(The Sun After The Clouds)

NINETEENTH CENTURY ENGLAND
THE HOUSE OF A CERTAIN MARQUISE
IS FRAUGHT WITH PROBLEMS.
NIDELL !!
LOOK, LOOK! AN AMAZING NEW IN-VENTION!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING ON ABOUT, NORA?
EHEHEH HEHEH!
THIS!
OPEN IT AND SEE!
?
NIDELL: "A BOX OF CANDY?"
NO open
GYAAAAH
*A DOLL
POP


ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL HIM?!
IF ARTHUR BULLIES YOU, I'LL JUST BUTTER HIM UP A BIT AND GIVE HIM THIS BOX AS A "PRESENT"! WITH THAT WEAK HEART 'O HIS, THIS'LL GET HIM FOR SURE!
I CALL IT THE "MAKE-ARTHUR-FAINT-DEVICE" !!
THUMP THUMP THUMP (HEART BEATING WILDLY)
NORA SFX. SNORT! DOLL SFX. BOUNCE BOUNCE

LITTLE ARTHUR'S PROBABLY WAITING FOR YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT DOOR!
NON-SENSE ...
(DOOR UNLATCHING)

JEEZ! THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO SAY TO YOUR CHILDHOOD FRIEND WHO'S WORRIED ABOUT YOU!
I CAN'T REMEMBER A SINGLE GOOD THING EVER COMING OF FOLLOWING ONE OF YOUR SUGGESTIONS.

HOW CRUEL! I WAS UP ALL NIGHT THINKIN' ABOUT THIS!
IT'S TIME FOR MY LESSON WITH MISS COCO.
NORA SFX GAN! (SHOCK)

WHAT?! BUT I CAN FEEL IT... DANGER IS LURKING JUST AROUND THE CORNER!
RETURN TO YOUR STATION, NURSE-MAID.
WAVE WAVE

I'M SIMPLY STRENGTH-ENING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE MARQUISE, MISS COCO, AND THE BARON. IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH THAT?
. . . WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, ARTHUR?
OH, NIDELL!
IS IT THAT TIME ALREADY?
NORA: "I TOLD YOU SO!"
NORA: "SCONES!" ARTHUR: "HANDS OFF."
YOU'VE ...
BEEN SPENDING A LOT OF TIME WITH MISS COCO RECENTLY.
SHH...
...
...
...
HUH? UH
SORRY! PLEASE EXCUSE ME FOR A MOMENT. I MUST FETCH SOMETHING FROM MY ROOM
tmp tmp tmp
SFX: MUNCH MUCH MUNCH
IF SO, IT CERTAINLY WOULDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH A VULGAR, LOW-CLASS PEON LIKE YOURSELF.
ARE YOUR EFFORTS TO "STRENGTHEN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE MARQUISE AND THE BARON" GOING TO END IN— MARRIAGE?

NORA: "THAT'S A CRIME, IT IS!"

OH ...
PHEW! IT'S
R-RIGHT ...
WHILE I WOULD LIKE A TITLE ...
EH?! NIDELL AND MISS COCO?!
犯罪!
DON'T BE RIDICU-LOUS, NORA
真に受けんな
!!!
OHO! IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE AFTER?
IF YOU WERE TO MARRY MISS COCO,
NOT ONLY WOULD YOU GAIN A TITLE YOUR CHILD WOULD BE OF NOBLE BIRTH AS WELL

NIDELL "YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN TO TAKE HIM SERIOUSLY."

.....
IT'S ABSOLUTELY MEANINGLESS FOR ME TO OBTAIN ONE BY MARRYING SOMEONE A DECADE YOUNGER THAN ME--I WANT TO GAIN A TITLE BY MERIT OF MY OWN ABILITIES AND SKILLS

SFX HMPH
YOU TALK BIG.
EVEN IF YOU DID OBTAIN A TITLE, YOU WOULD SIMPLY GO FROM BEING AN "EMBARRASSMENT" TO BEING A "CURIOSITY".
ENTERING THE UPPER ECHELONS OF SOCIETY WOULD REQUIRE YOU TO BE QUITE THE HYPOCRITE-- YOU'D HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO GO ON FOREVER LYING ABOUT YOUR ORIGINS.
いや
いや
A PEASANT, THE ILLEGITIMATE CHILD OF A BARON, ACQUIRING A TITLE?
SURELY YOU JEST!
ARTHUR. "NO, NO, IT SIMPLY WOULDN'T DO..."
SFX HA!
ARTHUR, MY DEAR HALF-BROTHER!
ALTHOUGH I DESIRE A TITLE, I HAVE NO INTENTION OF ASSOSCIATING MYSELF WITH NOBILITY.
ONE DAY, THE "NOBILITY" WILL BOW DOWN BEFORE THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE
I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT HUMILIATION TASTES LIKE!

YOU CAN'T EVEN LEAVE YOUR BED MOST OF THE TIME--IT'S LITTLE WONDER YOU ENVY ME!
SOMEONE WHO CAN'T BEAR TO BE MOCKED SHOULDN'T PRETEND TO BE SO TOUGH ...
IN YOUR HEART OF HEARTS, DO YOU REALLY MISS THE DULL, IDLE CHATTER OF YOUR PRECIOUS UPPER CLASS THAT MUCH?
YOU HALFHEARTEDLY ACCEPT A JOB AS THE MARQUISE'S PRIVATE TUTOR AND YOU HAVE THE NERVE TO SAY YOU'RE GOING TO GET A TITLE?!
YOU'RE REALLY SOMETHING!
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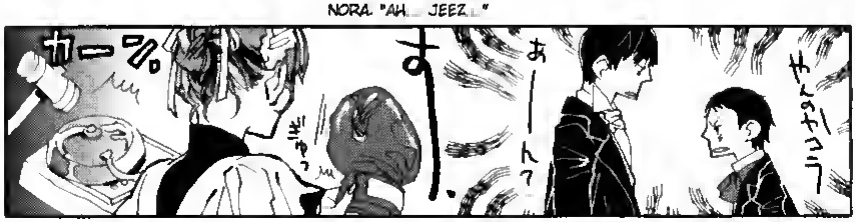
NORA: "AH... JEEZ..."



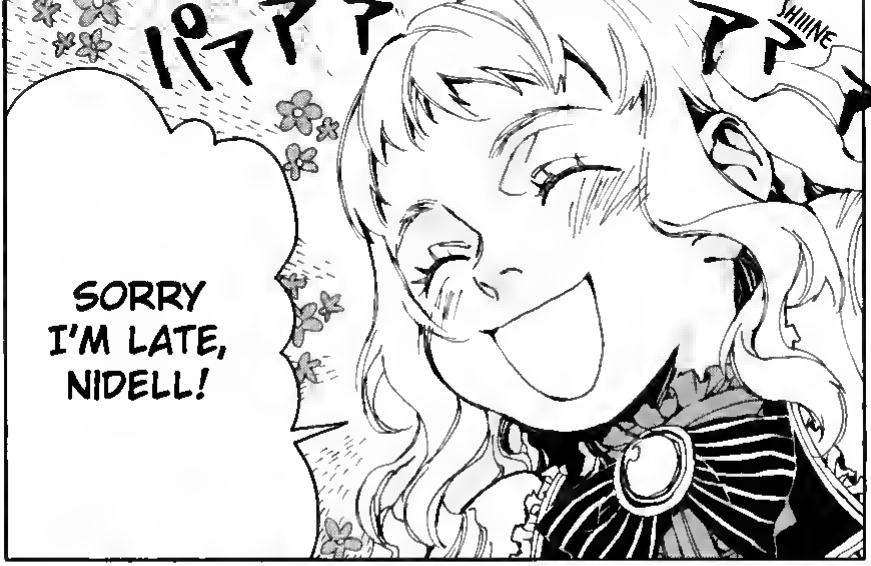
SFX: SHHHH / TUG / DING!

NIDELL: "WHAT?!"

ARTHUR: "YOU LOOKIN' FOR A FIGHT?!"

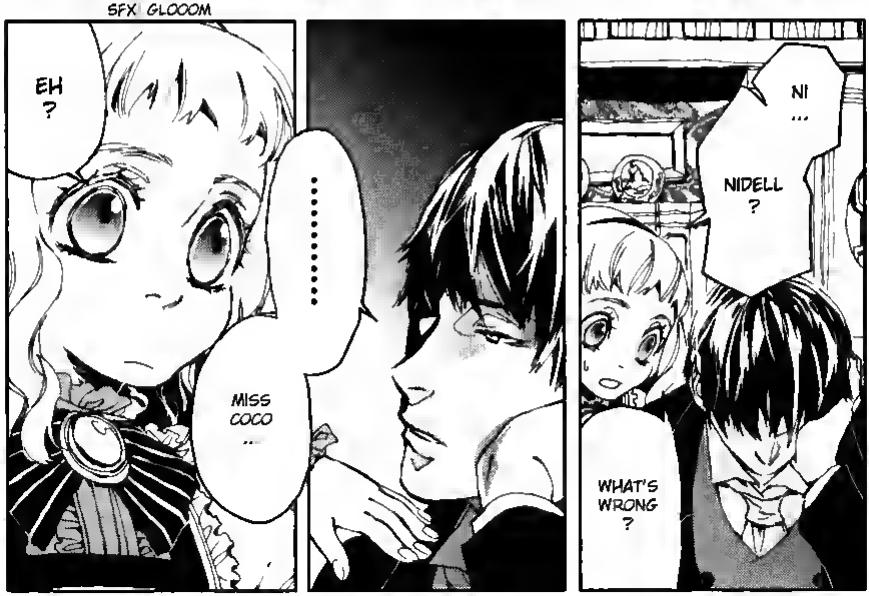
SHOULD GET ALONG, OKAY?

"A PEASANT, THE ILLEGITIMATE CHILD OF A BARON, ACQUIRING A TITLE?"
.....
HE CAN SPOUT OFF FLOWERY, EMPTY COMPLI-MENTS
WITH ONLY THE SHADOW OF A SNEER,
SO WHY IS IT ...
"SOMEONE WHO CAN'T BEAR TO BE MOCKED SHOULDN'T PRETEND TO BE SO TOUGH."
HONESTLY ...
HE ...
UNLATCH


パァアア
SHIINE
SORRY I'M LATE, NIDELL!

ずーーん…

SFX: GLOOOM


EH ?
……
MISS COCO …
NI …
NIDELL ?
WHAT'S WRONG ?

astonished
HYPOTHETICALLY SPEAKING..
DO YOU THINK THERE'S ANY WAY I COULD BE KNIGHTED BY HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN?
AH ...
UH ...
WHAT I MEANT WAS--
oh! はっ
eh?
THAT'S ...
GRAB!

AH... UH... I DID SAY H-HYPO-THETICALLY ...
I'LL BRAG TO THE WHOLE COUNTRY !!!
OH! RIGHT ...
OF COURSE YOU CAN !!!
SFX SNORT / SPARKLE SPARKLE
HAHA
?
I'M SURE YOU CAN EASILY GET ANY TITLE YOU WANT!
IF YOU'RE DETER-MINED TO DO IT, THEN
YOU'RE AMAZING, NIDELL!

EASILY
...
HEH
...
IT'S PROBABLY NOT POSSIBLE, BUT
...
SHALL I TRY MY BEST?
YEAH !!
YOU HAVE MY FULL SUPPORT !!
MISS COCO ...
HM ?

SFX: PAOOOOOOOOOOOO

CLOSE! HE'S SO CLOSE!
AHH, B-BUT ...
NIDE-
HERE GOES MY HUG!!
-LL !!
OH, BY THE WAY, YOU WERE TEN MINUTES LATE.
すが
DID YOU FIND WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR?
HUH ...?
OH ...
UH ...
SORTA ...
WELL ...

SFX: SWIPE!

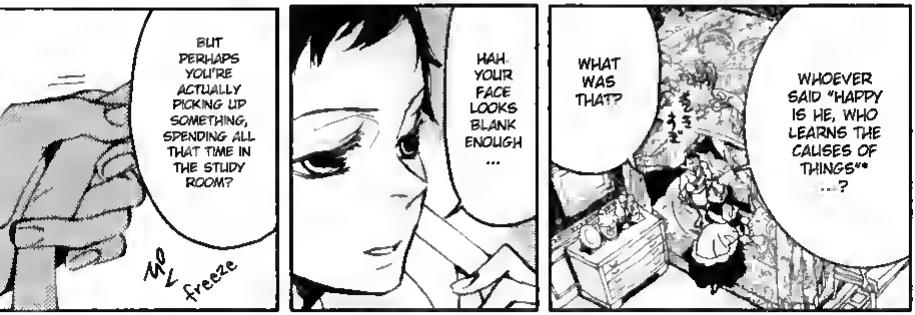
BUT YOU COULDN'T FIND THEM?
SOME-ONE HAD GIVEN ME THE MOST DELICOUS CHOCO-LATES,
AND I WAS LOOKING FOR THEM SO I COULD GIVE YOU SOME, BUT...
THAT BOX, HUH ...
WELL... AFTER I THOUGHT ABOUT IT,
I REALIZED I'D GIVEN THE BOX TO NORA YESTERDAY ...

THAT MUSCLE-HEADED WOMAN ...
SHE'S GOING TO KILL ME SOMEDAY!
...NORA?
JRK!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER TH--
E-RE?!
SHP
DASH!
WASN'T THAT MS. THURI'S VOICE JUST NOW?
I DIDN'T HEAR ANY VOICE
EH? WAS IT?

SFX: P/OOOOO
YOU!!
YOU'RE NOTHIN' BUT BAD NEWS!
NIDELL WORRIES ABOUT YOU, YOU KNOW!
SO WHY DO YOU ALWAYS ACT SO HOSTILE TOWARDS HIM?
YOU GOT NIDELL ALL DEPRESSED, SAYIN' WHAT YOU SAID!!
Point!
I REALLY DON'T SEE HOW THIS CONVERSATION FOLLOWS THAT BODY BLOW YOU JUST DELIVERED!
I'D RATHER DIE THAN HAVE SOMEONE LIKE NIDELL WORRY ABOUT ME!
PUNCH!

YOU NEARLY KILLED ME! YOU CAN'T MAKE ME FORGIVE YOU JUST LIKE THAT!
JUST SIT BACK AND TAKE IT EASY WHILE I MAKE YOU COMFORT-ABLE!

NORA. *I IMPORTED THIS FROM INDIA!*


BUT PERHAPS YOU'RE ACTUALLY PICKING UP SOMETHING, SPENDING ALL THAT TIME IN THE STUDY ROOM?
freeze
HAH. YOUR FACE LOOKS BLANK ENOUGH ...
WHAT WAS THAT?
WHOEVER SAID "HAPPY IS HE, WHO LEARNS THE CAUSES OF THINGS"* ...?

*FROM VIRGIL, *GEORGICS*

ARTHUR SMALL. "YOU'VE WRAPPED ENOUGH ALREADY!"

IN THE OLD DAYS, YOU WERE MUCH EASIER TO UNDER-STAND
NOW YOU'RE ALWAYS GETTING ANGRY ABOUT ONE THING OR ANOTHER
...
...
NOT REALLY
...
NIDELL JUST .. HUGGED MISS COCO.
.....
AND SO YOU TOOK OUT YOUR ANGER ON ME?

NORA: "YOU'VE INCURRED MY WRATH!!!"
WHAT ARE YOU ACTING ALL MEEK AND FEMININE FOR?
THIS IS ... RATHER DISTURB-ING ...
... THAT WAS WRONG OF ME
ARROW: "USUALLY"
... WAS IT REALLY THAT MUCH OF A SHOCK?
YEAH ... SORRY
SFX: CLENCH
BUT ... IT MADE ME ANGRY, TOO ...
.....
THAT'S --!

BUT WHEN I FINALLY GOT TO HIM ...
NIDELL DIDN'T NEED ME ANYMORE ...

BECAUSE I KNEW NIDELL WORKED HERE.
I ONLY GOT A JOB HERE

YEAH, YOU'RE AN IDIOT.
ドッ
パリ
BUT I GUESS ... I'M JUST A FOOL.

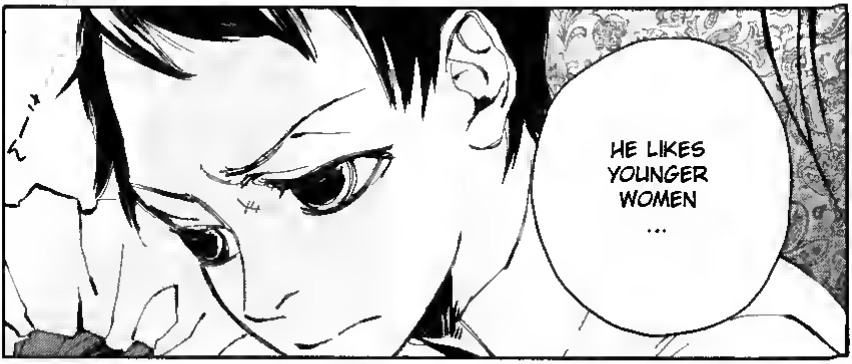
IN THE OLD DAYS, NIDELL AND I WERE ALWAYS TOGETHER!
WHEN NIDELL WAS AT HOME, HE WAS ALWAYS TREATED SO BADLY ...
I THOUGHT I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD PROTECT HIM...

YOU LOVE HIM.
WHAT GIVES YOU THE RIGHT TO CALL ME AN--
THAT'S WHAT MAKES YOU AN IDIOT.

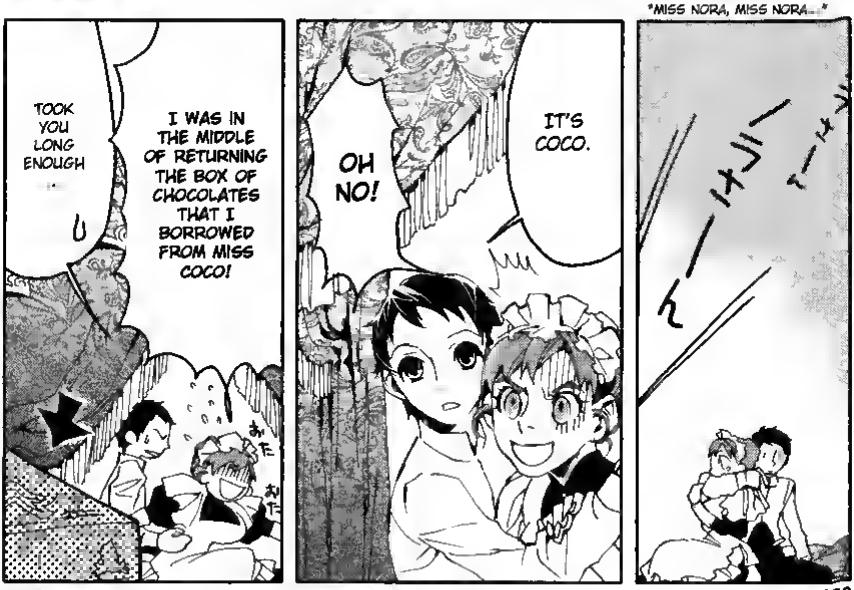
HA……HA HA……HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
ARTHUR "WOAH!"
うっ
SHE'S LOST IT...
GRAB
HEY ...
LI.
WH-
LI.

I CAN'T BEAR TO WATCH YOU CRY LIKE THAT!
SO HURRY UP AND STOP CRYING!
... YOUR FACE FINALLY HAS SOME COLOR, ARTHUR.
AT LEAST MY FACE ISN'T STUPID!
NORA: "AHAHAHA! STUPID-FACE!"
OWWW! YOU'RE MAKIN' ME CRY AGAIN!
NORA SMALL: *EEK! DON'T PULL MY HAIR RIBBON!
WH-WHAT THE ...
IT'S GONNA LOOK LIKE I MADE YOU CRY!!
DON'T CRY!
AGH
aha
I REALLY AM, AREN'T I...
AH HA HA HA HA HA HA
gulp

BG NOISE: "MISS..."



"MISS NORA, MISS NORA..."



SFX: "WHAT TO DO, WHAT TO DO..."

SEE YA, ARTHUR!
HEY!
SFX: DASH!
OKAY!
SFX: SLAP!
SFX: POUR
SFX: SCRUB, SCURB
WELL...
...ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
EH?
SFX: BEAM
AH...
...
UH...
SFX: CLENCH

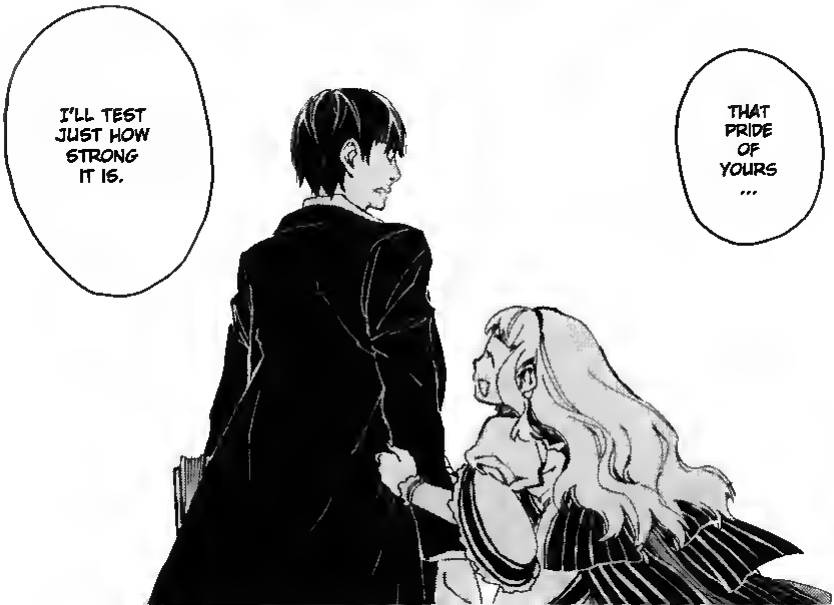
YOU'RE ACTUALLY A PRETTY NICE GUY, ARTHUR!
にこっ smile
THANKS!
HM?
A "NICE GUY",

DESPITE GROWING UP IN THE SLUMS ...
WHY DID HE FALL IN LOVE WITH EDU-CATION?
THAT FOOL ...
あはは
SFX. AHAHAHAHA
WHAT WAS THAT, NIDELL?! I CAN'T HELP THAT I FORGET ...
YOU'VE BEEN HERE FOR QUITE AWHILE NOW. YOU SHOULD REMEMBER YOUR WAY ABOUT!
REALLY, MISS NORA .
WELL ... I GOT LOST!

WHY IS IT I ALWAYS
I LOST ...
DRAW THE SHORT STRAW?
"YOU CAN'T EVEN LEAVE YOUR BED MOST OF THE TIME."

"YOU GOT NIDELL ALL DEPRESSED, SAYING WHAT YOU SAID!!"
"IT'S LITTLE WONDER YOU ENVY ME."
OH ...
BE QUIET ...
"NIDELL JUST... HUGGED MISS COCO."
SO THAT'S IT!
I SEE ...

I GOT CLOSE TO COCO, TO SEE IF I COULD DISCOVER NIDELL'S WEAK-NESS, TO NO AVAIL
BUT MAYBE I CAN USE THIS ...


I'LL TEST JUST HOW STRONG IT IS.
THAT PRIDE OF YOURS ...

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